

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2477

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 17234

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, GW, PFOR

SUBJECT: FRG EUROPEAN POLICY

1. IN OCTOBER 8 TALK WITH EMBOFF, CHANCELIORY OFFICIAL THIEIE (OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR EUROPEAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION) COMMENTED ON BONN'S EUROPEAN POLICY IN MONTHS AHEAD. THIELE SAID THAT TWO FACTORS WILL HEAVILY INFLUENCE FRG'S NEXT STEPS IN PURSUIT OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION: ONGOING DEBATE OVER BONN'S 1977 BUDGET, AND SPD/FDP COALITION TALKS IN WAKE OF OCTOBER 3 ELECTIONS. THIELE FEARED THAT BUDGET PRESSURES WILL SEVERELY LIMIT FRG ABILITY TO FINANCE NEW EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF EC. HE ADDED THAT BLOATED CAP BURDEN ON EC BUDGET FURTHER CONSTRICTS VOLUME OF FRG FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR OTHER MECHANISMS -- E.G., REGIONAL, SOCIAL, AND STRUCTURAL POLICY -- WHICH MORE EFFECTIVELY PROMOTE CAUSE OF INTEGRATION.

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2. FRG BELIEVES THAT EC, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN FORWARD MOMENTUM, WILL HAVE TO MAKE SOME CONCRETE PROGRESS IN 1977. FRG BUREAUCRACY IS NOW GRAPPLING WITH QUESTION AS TO WHERE SUCH PROGRESS CAN BEST BE ACHIEVED. THIELE SAID THAT FRG, IN CONTEXT OF GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT TO BE RELEASED IN DECEMBER AFTER ELECTION OF CHANCELLOR, WILL RENEW STANDARD PLEDGE OF LOYALTY TO EUROPEAN IDEAL. AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, HE WAS UNSURE WHAT FRG STATEMENT WILL PRESCRIBE AS SPECIFIC NEXT MOVES IN PURSUIT OF THAT IDEAL.

3. EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE JENKINS WILL VISIT BONN NOVEMBER 2 FOR TOUR D'HORIZON ON EC ISSUES. THIELE PREDICTED THAT FRG WILL REITERATE TO JENKINS ITS LONG-STANDING WISH TO TRIM DOWN EC BUREAUCRACY BY REDUCING NUMBER OF COMMISSIONERS, DIRECTORS GENERAL, AND THEIR STAFFS. AS PRACTICAL MATTER, HOWEVER, THIELE SAID THAT FRG SEES NO IMMEDIATE PROSPECT FOR ACHIEVING THAT GOAL.

4. ASKED ABOUT RECENT PROPOSAL BY SPD PARLIAMENTARIAN MOELLER THAT BUNDESTAG SET UP SPECIAL COMMITTEE DEVOTED SOLELY TO EC-RELATED ISSUES, THIELE SAID THAT FRG DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT CREATION OF NEW COMMITTEE WILL AFFECT BASIC PROBLEMS FACING EC. NOTING THAT BUNDESTAG FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ALREADY FOLLOWS SOME EC MATTERS, THIELE IMPLIED THAT CHANCEILORY SEES NO NEED FOR GREATER BUNDESTAG ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITMENT TO EC ISSUES.
HILLENBRAND

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